

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,930 B1) in view of Nagai (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0010561 A1). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a digital camera comprising, in part, “a control section which, if the ON state of the instruction section is continually detected after the image capture instruction, controls such that the captured image is displayed at the display section during the ON state and which, if an instruction is issued by the input section during this ON state, controls a change of size of a display object region of the captured image that is to be displayed at the display section” (emphasis added).

Mitsuhashi discloses an electronic still camera with dual contact shutter switch for picture review. The camera includes a push button with two levels of depression and a zoom operation. Nagai discloses an image sensing apparatus and method. The user of Nagai can designate a zoom area and magnification on the displayed image of an object. Nagai does not allow for the selection of the size of a display object region during the depression of a push button.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 because the Examiner states Mitsuhashi and Nagai, combined, teach all the features of claim 1. However, the present invention, unlike the combination of features Mitsuhashi and Nagai the Examiner uses, allows the user to change the size of a display object while the user has pushed the release switch (button) continuously.

The present invention waits for when the release switch is half pressed (Fig. 3, S106). After the release switch is on, it performs operations and checks to see if the release switch is fully pressed (S112). After the release switch is pressed, the camera checks to see if the release switch is continuously in an ON state, or, in other words, is continuously being pressed (S116). If the switch is continuously in an ON state, then the release switch is in a continuously ON state, and the camera begins preview image processing steps S200 through S212. The sizing of a display object occurs in the preview image processing steps. Therefore, the sizing of the image occurs while the release switch is pressed.

However, neither Mitsuhashi or Nagai disclose this feature. The Examiner concedes Mitsuhashi does not disclose the feature of claim 1 that sizes the display object (Office Action, page 3). Nagai discloses a zoom operation, but does not disclose the zooming occurring while the release button is continuously held down as in the present invention. To the extent that the Examiner cites variation of display size during a review mode, this is insufficient to vary the size of the display which is based on an instruction set for image capture. Therefore claim 1 should be patentable.

Claims 2-6 should be patentable for at least the same reasons as above because of their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 7 should be patentable for at least the same reason as claim 1 because it recites similar limitations as claim 1. Instead of using the language “change of size of a display object region” as in claim 1, claim 7 uses the language “change of the display object region.” The same arguments for patentability for claim 1 apply to claim 7.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/688,932

Atty. Docket No. Q78105

Claims 8-14 should be patentable for at least the same reasons as above because of their dependency on claim 7.

Claims 15-18 have been added to further describe the features of the invention with more particularity.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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Date: April 11, 2007